United Nations

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council condemns "unequivocally" killing of United Nations peace-keeping personnel and demands that attacks on United Nations peace-keepers cease forthwith.

+ Security Council mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina to be composed of France, Hungary, New Zealand, Pakistan, Russian Federation and Venezuela.

+ Secretary-General, on first day of three-day visit to Belgium, delivers address to Foreign Affairs Commissions of Senate and House at Belgian Parliament.

+ Special Commission inspection team orders Iraqi authorities to destroy chemical weapons material.

+ Erik Jensen appointed by Secretary-General as Chairman of Identification Commission for Referendum in Western Sahara for period of six months.

+ Ukraine asks Security Council to consider urgently ways of compensating economic losses suffered by States as result of sanctions against Yugoslav Federal Republic.

+ Italy donates 27 tonnes of relief supplies to Eritrea, according to Department for Humanitarian Affairs.

+ Secretary-General sends message to opening of forty-ninth session of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok yesterday.

+ Fifth Committee recommends revised 1992-1993 programme budget arising from restructuring of Secretariat; General Assembly would appropriate some $2.45 billion.

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+ 1993 World Conference on Human Rights should focus on world's poorest, underdevelopment, lack of health care and various other forms of violations of economic, social and cultural rights, according to participants in planning Committee.

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The Security Council has "unequivocally condemned" the recent killing of two soldiers serving with the United Nations Protection Force in former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR). A Czech peace-keeper was killed as a result of artillery shelling of Sector South in Croatia today, and an Ukranian peace-keeper was struck by an artillery fragment in Sarajevo last week. In addition, the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) suffered a further casualty with the killing of another Bulgarian soldier by the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) last weekend.

In a statement to the press issued by Council President Jamsheed K.A. Marker (Pakistan) this evening, the Council demanded that attacks on United Nations peace-keeping personnel cease forthwith.

The deaths of the two soldiers serving with the United Nations Protection Force in former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) bring to 39 the total of UNPROFOR soldiers killed in the line of duty since 1992, the statement said.

Members of the Council expressed their condolences to the bereaved families of the soldiers concerned and to the Governments of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Ukraine.

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The Security Council mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina to assess the situation there will be composed by Council members from France, Hungary, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Russian Federation and Venezuela, according to an announcement by Council President Marker yesterday.

The Council decided under resolution 819 (1993), adopted last weekend, that it would send a mission, as soon as possible, to ascertain firsthand the situation in Bosnia and to report back.

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On the first of his three-day visit to Belgium, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali delivered an address this morning to the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the Senate and the House at the Belgian Parliament.

According to a United Nations spokesman, the topic of Zaire was discussed following the Secretary-General's speech. Mr. Boutros-Ghali, in reply to a question, said that the United Nations had not received an official request from Zaire or from any other Member State to consider the situation in that country, but was following developments closely. At this preliminary stage, he said, the United Nations was studying how best to contribute to finding a

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solution to the problem. Recently, the Secretary-General had consulted with the Permanent Representatives of Belgium, France and the United States.

Earlier this morning, the Secretary-General met with Vitaly Churkin, Special Envoy of the Russian Federation to former Yugoslavia. Later, he received the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Manfred Worner, for a discussion of the possible role of NATO member States in the implementation of the Vance/Owen plan; the enforcement of the "no-fly zone" over Bosnia and Herzegovina; and cooperation between the United Nations and NATO.

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A chemical weapons inspection team of the Special Commission on Iraq's Disarmament has ordered Iraqi authorities to dismantle certain equipment and remove it and quantities of precursor chemicals to the Muthanna State Establishment for destruction.

The team, which conducted its activities in Iraq from 9 to 16 April, examined three facilities built for the production of precursor chemicals for Iraq's chemical weapons programme. It instructed Iraq to move several tonnes of precursor chemicals located at another site to Muthanna, also for destruction there.

Further inspections were conducted at a number of previously declared sites and at one undeclared site to determine whether they had had any association with Iraq's former chemical weapons programme. In particular, the team was interested in examining certain previously observed munitions to assess whether they could be used for chemical warfare purposes.

The Special Commission will be analyzing the results of this inspection to assess whether any of the facilities or items inspected will need to be monitored in the long-term.

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Erik Jensen has been appointed by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali as Chairman of the Identification Commission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, according to a United Nations spokesman today. The appointment, which is at the Assistant Secretary-General level, is for a period of six months.

Before his present appointment, Mr. Jensen was Director and Deputy to the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Public Affairs, with particular responsibility for preparations for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations. From 1990 to 1992, he was Director of the Division of General Assembly Affairs, and prior to that, Director of the United Nations Information Centre and UNDP representative in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Jensen is a national of Malaysia.

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Ukraine has asked the Security Council to consider urgently ways of compensating economic losses suffered by States as a result of the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

In a letter to the President of the Council, dated 17 April, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Ukraine, Anatoly Zlenko, said the losses suffered by Ukraine should "be taken into account" by the United Nations in assessing the country's contribution to the regular budget and peace-keeping operations.

Ukraine suggested that the system of sanctions "should be more logical and streamlined", while economic losses arising from its enforcement should be "equally distributed" among the most developed Member States. If the sanctions were strengthened, the international trade lane by the Danube, which is "vitally crucial" for Ukraine's economy, would be practically blocked, the letter noted.

The letter was transmitted to the Council President by Victor Batiouk, the Ukrainian Permanent Representative to the United Nations.
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Italy has donated 27 tonnes of relief supplies to Eritrea. The Italian donation was in response to an international appeal by the provisional Government of Eritrea for emergency relief, following a severe hail storm last weekened. The storm caused heavy damage to residential areas, port facilities and surrounding villages of the port city of Massawa. Over 15,000 people were left homeless. The suplies were dispatched from the Department of Humanitarian Affairs' Pisa Warehouse.

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Support for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the main regional arm of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, was "vitally important", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in a message to the opening of the forty-ninth session of ESCAP in Bangkok yesterday. Strengthened regional cooperation was a key element in achieving political and socio-economic progress, he said, and the role played by the regional commissions in that process should be reinvigorated.

The Secretary-General stressed the capacity for sustained economic growth displayed by many Asian countries which constituted a tribute to their sound economic policies and to the vitality and creativity of their peoples. It was disappointing, however, that despite the region's overall progress, many countries had failed to register any significant economic progress, he added.

The Secretary-General's message was read out by Rafeeuddin Ahmed, Executive Secretary of ESCAP.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has recommended that the General Assembly appropriate some $2.45 billion for the biennium 1992-1993, on revised estimates from the restructuring of the United Nations Secretariat.

By the terms of a draft text adopted yesterday, the Assembly would generally approve the Secretary-General's proposals regarding high-level posts, but would again stress the need for a "timely dialogue" between the Secretary-General and Member States on the restructuring.

The Committee also approved a draft decision concerning seven United Nations interim offices in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

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The 1993 World Conference on Human Rights should focus on the fate of the world's poorest segments, underdevelopment, lack of health care and various other forms of violations of economic, social and cultural rights. That proposal was made on Tuesday by representatives of several United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations, who addressed the planning Committee for the Conference, scheduled in Vienna from 14 to 25 June.

The Committee, which is currently holding a general debate on the final outcome of the Conference, will end its session tomorrow.

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